



## Special Events

Fairs, festivals and events are a matter of state pride in Wisconsin. Along with the fun and festivity however, comes mountains of trash. Quite a bit of that trash is recyclable and should be recycled. Not only is recycling of certain materials required by state and local law at special events and festivals, but recycling and other waste reduction efforts can cut down on disposal costs, and may even generate extra income.

While recycling at these events may appear a daunting feat, a number of event organizers have shown that it can be done effectively and efficiently. By coordinating recycling efforts with local voluntary organizations and civic groups, you can increase buy-in and civic pride in your accomplishments.

The Wisconsin Recycling Law and local ordinances require owners of commercial, industrial, retail and government facilities to provide adequate, separate containers for recycling, regularly notify all users and occupants of the facilities about the recycling programs, and provide for the collection and delivery of recyclable materials to a recycling facility. Materials likely to be found at special events that must be recycled, include aluminum and plastic beverage containers and cardboard. With a little planning ahead, event organizers can arrange for their recycling AND implement strategies to reduce the amount of waste generated.

Since many special events are held on or in government facilities, the governing bodies of those facilities are responsible for recycling. Local governments who allow the use or lease their buildings and grounds for festivals or other events must provide for recycling either by doing it themselves or requiring the organizers of the event to do so. If you want the organizers to be responsible for recycling, you should include recycling requirement in the permit, lease agreement or contract.

Here are some resources that will help event organizers plan for recycling:

Special Events: Recycling and Waste Management.

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/publications/recycle/PUBL-CE-281-2001.pdf>

The Event Planner's Guide to Waste Reduction

<http://www.besmart.org/festival/index.html>

Go to NAPCOR's News & Views button and read about recycling at major sport venues

<http://www.napcor.com/>

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bureau of Waste Management

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